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Statement submitted by International Food and Beverage Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The International Food and Beverage Alliance thanks the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the opportunity to provide a written statement for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016.

International Food and Beverage Alliance is a group of eleven global food and non-alcoholic beverage companies who share a common goal of helping people around the world achieve balanced diets and healthy, active lifestyles.

We are committed to ensuring our businesses create and preserve the long-term sustainability and health of the environment and the communities we serve.

In 2008, our CEOs came together and adopted a set of public commitments in support of the implementation of the 2004 World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. We committed to reformulate products to reduce fat, sugar and salt and innovate to create products that help people eat healthy, balanced diets. We committed to provide clear, fact-based nutrition information and make labels easier to understand. We adopted responsible marketing practices, restricting the marketing of foods high in fat, sugar and salt to children and committed to promote healthier lifestyles in communities around the world and in our workplaces.

International Food and Beverage Alliance members are contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting good health and well-being.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for worldwide, joint action by governments, civil society and business to promote sustainable global development over the next 15 years and is predicated on the fundamental principle of collaboration.

We are pleased that SDG 17 — "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" — recognizes the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Our members have a long and successful history of supporting public health initiatives in partnership with governments and civil society. Our experience has shown that collaborative actions represent one of the most cost-effective ways to address public health challenges. Today, public-private partnerships represent a permanent place in the global public health landscape.

The effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering the SDGs will depend on the willingness of the public sector, private sector and civil society to work together.

Unlike the Millennium Development Goals which were designed by governments, the private sector, including International Food and Beverage Alliance members, were engaged in helping shape the SDGs.

We are hopeful that the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs taking place at the High Level Political Forum in July will foster an enabling environment for the development of a practical partnership model so that the successful collaboration achieved among governments, the private sector and civil society in designing the SDGs will continue as stakeholders move towards designing an effective implementation plan.